



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 11, 2003

### **H.R. 868** **Nicaragua Property Dispute Settlement Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on International Relations  
on March 5, 2003*

H.R. 868 would amend section 527 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995, to require that all claims by U.S. citizens against the government of Nicaragua for the expropriation of property between January 1, 1956, and January 9, 2002, be presented in writing to the Department of State in Washington or the U.S. embassy in Nicaragua before a date to be determined by the Secretary of State. Section 527 prohibits U.S. assistance to any government that does not provide a timely and orderly resolution of property disputes. The bill would set a deadline for presenting new claims against the government of Nicaragua for expropriation that occurred during that time period, thus permitting the completion of a process begun in 1994. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 868 would have no significant budgetary effect because Nicaragua has been resolving such claims made by U.S. citizens for the last decade and the President has waived the prohibition on assistance to Nicaragua under section 527.

H.R. 868 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact is Joseph C. Whitehill. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.